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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 22 has been cancelled. Claims 4, 9, 12, and 20 have been amended, as follows:

1. (previously presented) A method of controlling a transmission rate, comprising:

determining whether a pause frame has been received after a packet count value has been reached;

determining, after waiting a pause time specified by the pause frame, whether a maximum of an inter-frame spacing (IFS) has been reached if the pause frame has been received; and

increasing the inter-frame spacing by a value if the maximum of the inter-frame spacing has not been reached to reduce the transmission rate.

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the value is based on a selection from the group consisting of a pause time in a pause frame, a frequency of pause frames and a proximity of a current inter-frame spacing to the maximum or a minimum of the inter-frame spacing.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the value is in byte time units, a byte time unit being the time it takes to send a byte of data onto a network media.

4. (currently amended) A method of increasing a transmission rate, comprising:

determining whether a pause frame has been received;

determining ~~, after waiting a poll time specified by the pause frame,~~ whether a minimum of an inter-frame spacing (IFS) has been reached if the pause frame has not

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been received; and

decreasing the inter-frame spacing for a number of frames by a value if the minimum of the inter-frame spacing has not been reached to increase the transmission rate.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, further including waiting for an event to occur a poll time prior to determining whether the pause frame has been received.

Claims 6 – 7 (cancelled).

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the value is in byte time units, a byte time unit being the time it takes to send a byte of data onto a network media.

9. (currently amended) An input/output controller, comprising:

a receiver circuit to determine whether a pause frame has been received; and

a logic circuit adapted to wait a pause time specified by the pause frame, to determine whether a maximum of an inter-frame spacing (IFS) has been reached if the pause frame has [[not]] been received, and to increase the inter-frame spacing by a value if the maximum of the inter-frame spacing has not been reached to [[train]] reduce a transmission rate.

10. (previously presented) The input/output controller according to claim 9, wherein the value is based on a selection from the group consisting of a pause time in a pause frame, a frequency of pause frames and a proximity of a current inter-frame spacing to the maximum or a minimum of the inter-frame spacing.

11. (previously presented) The input/output controller according to claim 9,

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wherein the value is in byte time units, a byte time unit being the time it takes to send a byte of data onto a network media.

12. (currently amended) An input/output controller, comprising:

a receiver circuit to determine whether a pause frame has been received after a packet count value has been reached; and

a logic circuit adapted to determine, after waiting a pause time specified by the pause frame, whether a minimum of an inter-frame spacing (IFS) has been reached if the pause frame has not been received, and to decrease the inter-frame spacing for a number of frames by a value if the minimum of the inter-frame spacing has not been reached to train a transmission rate.

13. (previously presented) The input/output controller according to claim 12, wherein the logic circuit is further adapted to wait for an event to occur a poll time prior to determining whether the pause frame has been received by the receiver circuit.

14. (previously presented) The input/output controller according to claim 12, wherein the event is a the logic circuit is further adapted to wait a packet count value prior to determining whether the pause frame has been received by the receiver circuit.

Claim 15 (cancelled).

16. (previously presented) The input/output controller according to claim 12, wherein the value is in byte time units, a byte time unit being the time it takes to send a byte of data onto a network media.

17. (previously presented) A program code storage device, comprising:

a machine-readable storage medium; and

machine-readable program code, stored on the machine-readable storage

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medium, having instructions, which when executed cause a computer to

determine whether a pause frame has been received after a packet count value

is reached,

determine, after waiting a pause time specified by the pause frame, whether a

maximum of an inter-frame spacing (IFS) has been reached if the pause has been

received, and

increase the inter-frame spacing by a value if the maximum of the inter frame

spacing has not been reached to reduce a transmission rate.

18. (previously presented) The program code storage device according to claim

17, wherein the value is based on a selection from the group consisting of a pause time

in a pause frame, a frequency of pause frames and a proximity of a current inter-frame

spacing to the maximum or a minimum of the inter-frame spacing.

19. (previously presented) The program code storage device according to claim

17, wherein the value is in byte time units, a byte time unit being the time it takes to

send a byte of data onto a network media.

20. (currently amended) A program code storage device, comprising:

a machine-readable storage medium; and

machine-readable program code, stored on the machine-readable storage

medium, having instructions, which when executed cause a computer to

determine whether a pause frame has been received after a packet count value

has been reached,

determine ~~, after waiting a pause time specified by the pause frame,~~ whether a

minimum of an inter-frame spacing (IFS) has been reached if the pause frame has not

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been received, and

decrease the inter-frame spacing for a number of frames by a value if the minimum of the inter-frame spacing has not been reached to increase a transmission rate.

21. (previously presented) The program code storage device according to claim 20, wherein the machine-readable program code further includes instructions, which when executed cause the computer to wait for an event to occur a poll time prior to determining whether the pause frame has been receive

Claims 22 and 23 (cancelled).

24. (previously presented) The program code storage device according to claim 20, wherein the value is in byte time units, a byte time unit being the time it takes to send a byte of data onto a network media.

25. (previously presented) A network system, comprising:

a controller system to determine whether a pause frame has been received, to determine, after waiting a pause time specified in the pause frame, whether a maximum of an inter-frame spacing (IFS) has been reached if the pause frame has been received, and to increase the inter-frame spacing by a value if the maximum of the inter-frame spacing has not been reached to reduce a transmission rate; and

a trainer system to determine whether the pause frame has been received after a packet count is reached, to determine whether a minimum of the inter-frame spacing has been reached if the pause frame has not been received, and to decrease the inter-frame spacing by a second value if the minimum of the inter-frame spacing has not been reached to increase the transmission rate.

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26. (previously presented) The network system according to claim 25, wherein the value is in byte time units, a byte time unit being the time it takes to send a byte of data onto a network media.

27. (previously presented) The network system according to claim 25, wherein the second value is in byte time units, a byte time unit being the time it takes to send a byte of data onto a network media.

28. (previously presented) The network system according to claim 25, wherein the value is based on a selection from the group consisting of a pause time in a pause frame, a frequency of pause frames and a proximity of a current inter-frame spacing to the maximum or the minimum of the inter-frame spacing.

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